SUPPORTING TERRITORY SPORT

All Territorians love their sport. Budget 2010 provides $22.5 million for sport and recreation throughout the Territory, with $3.7 million of this going direct to peak sporting body funding.

It is great to see $4.2 million provided to continue the reconstruction of the Arafura Athletics Track and $12 million to support the racing industry.

FISHING, THE LURE OF THE TERRITORY

Budget 2010 continues the Territory Government’s commitment to improve fishing infrastructure and access, making it easier for Territorians to go recreational fishing.

2010 Budget delivers:
• $2.5 million to upgrade Fog Bay Road;
• $1 million to upgrade and improve recreational fishing infrastructure in the Top End; and
• $1 million to upgrade the fishing access roads of Woolianna Road and the Marrakai access road to Corroboree Billabong.

For more information visit: www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au

GREENING THE TERRITORY

The Territory Government is working towards a cleaner, greener Territory.

Budget 2010 is investing in the Territory’s future and is committed to protecting and enhancing the unique Territory environment and the sustainable use and conservation of resources.

$630,000 has been provided for establishing the ‘Cash for Containers’ Scheme by 2011. Territorians will be able to collect drink containers and receive money for every item returned. This initiative will assist in removing litter off our streets and our parks throughout our suburbs. It’s also a great opportunity for schools, community groups and our kids to raise funds.

In addition to this, legislation will be introduced banning the supply of plastic bags. “Ban the Bag” will further reduce litter and greenhouse emissions.

TAX CUTS TO SUPPORT HOME OWNERSHIP

Budget 2010 delivers on the Territory Government’s commitment to provide affordable housing options for all Territorians with tax cuts to support home ownership.

More tax cuts for first home buyers - an increase in stamp duty savings of $11,215 to a total saving of up to $26,730, by lifting the stamp duty exemption to the first $540,000 of the value of the home, up from $385,000. This means first home buyers do not pay stamp duty on the first $540,000 in value on their home.

A new concession of $8500 is now available for Seniors, Pensioners, Carers and Veterans to assist them buy a home or downsize. A 40% increase to the Principal Place of Residence rebate for non-first home buyers, rising to $3500.

This is great news for the Territory and will see more Territorians getting into their own homes and investing in the Territory’s future.

BETTER HOMESTART NT – GOVERNMENT HOME LOANS

HOMESTART NT supports low to middle income earners and first-home buyers into home ownership. Budget 2010 increases HOMESTART NT purchase price caps and income limits across the Territory, providing Territorians with access to 40% of the housing market with mortgage repayments no more than 30 per cent of your income.

HOMESTART NT Purchase Price Caps

For more information visit: www.housingnt.nt.gov.au

HOMESTART NT Income Levels

For more information regarding HOMESTART NT, visit the Housing the Territory website at www.housingnt.nt.gov.au

MAY 2010

Delivering Now for Territory Families - Investing in the Territory’s Future

KON’S COLUMN

May, and our dry season is here again. The first month of the dry brings out dragonflies, with yours truly at your doorstep ~ doorknocking, and of course the Budget.

Budget 2010 is framed to support families. With better health services for Territory Families now, and to also drive the Territory economy.

My focus has always been health, education and jobs, and I am very pleased that Budget 2010 focuses on these issues. With improvements for Homestart NT and tax cuts to support Home Ownership, Investing in our Hospitals, Extra funding for Casuarina Senior College and of course more funding for sports and major events, Budget 2010 has something for everybody.

A good budget for my Casuarina constituents, And a good budget for the Territory.

I am looking forward to discussing Budget 2010 with you in the next few weeks whilst I’m doorknocking in your area or at my community BBQ’s in your local parks.
**RECORD HEALTH BUDGET**

Budget 2010 is spending a record $1.16 billion to improve health and family services, delivering better hospitals and more frontline staff.

The Territory Government has boosted the health workforce delivering an extra 588 nurses and 157 doctors since 2002.

Royal Darwin Hospital will receive $292.8 million, up 161% since 2001. In addition, $43.5 million will be spent to upgrade the Emergency standby power generation.

The $22 million Alan Walker Cancer Care Centre will also receive $7.26 million for additional staff and expanded allied health services, expanded chemotherapy services and self-care patient accommodation.

**MORE MAJOR EVENTS THAN EVER BEFORE!**

The Territory Government makes our lifestyle even better with Budget 2010 delivering more for Major Events with $7 million to support major sporting and music events for Territory families, including:
- The Arafura Games;
- AFL matches at Marrara;
- The V8 Supercars;
- BASSINTHEGRASS;
- ACT Brumbies trial matches;
- The Hottest 7's Rugby Tournament;
- The Australian Super Bikes at Hidden Valley; and
- Pre-season NBL Tournament involving all NBL teams.

**INFRASTRUCTURE = JOBS**

Budget 2010 delivers a record $1.8 billion for infrastructure to invest in the Territory’s future and support 3600 jobs. This will build better schools, hospitals, roads and more housing.

Record infrastructure investment last year contributed to the creation of 6000 new jobs across the Territory in 2009.

Since 2001, infrastructure spending has injected $7.7 billion into building the Territory and stimulating the economy.

- $3 million to expand sections of Vanderlin Drive to four lanes;
- $1 million to upgrade Sanderson Middle School;
- $5 million to upgrade Casuarina Senior College; and
- $20 million to fast track land release at Palmerston.

**UPGRADE FOR CASUARINA SENIOR COLLEGE AND NEW CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

Budget 2010 delivers a record $886 million for Education and Training to provide more teachers, support staff and state of the art facilities for our kids.

Casuarina Senior College will benefit from a $5 million boost to build new classroom facilities and upgrade existing science labs. This follows more than $4 million already invested at the College in a new multi-purpose dance and sports pavilion, a large shade structure and improved parking and traffic management.

On top of this, I am excited to share that Casuarina Senior College is one of five schools to become a Centre of Excellence in the Territory, focusing on Health Sciences, giving our kids access to specialised academic courses. Not only does Casuarina Senior College get an upgrade, $6.6 million is being spent on specials schools across the Territory, including Henbury School.

**BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT**

Budget 2010 continues the $75 Back to School Voucher Scheme.

This initiative was established by the Northern Territory Government to help families offset the cost of textbooks, stationery, school uniforms, and other essential school items for every school-aged child.

**DELIVERING MORE POLICE & MORE POLICE BEATS**

Budget 2010 delivers $6 million to build and maintain Police Beats across the Territory - delivering more police on the beat.

This increases police visibility which will give locals, retailers and shoppers peace of mind and confidence that hotspots are being monitored. Casuarina Police Beat has been successful and funding from the budget will continue to support this and other beats across the Territory.

Police Officer positions are up by 399, or 43 per cent, since 2002, delivering the highest proportion of police per capita in the nation. Budget 2010 increases the Police, Fire and Emergency Services budget to $310 million, more than 126% since 2001.

The Government is cracking down on alcohol related crime which makes up 59 per cent of all assaults in the Territory. Tackling alcohol abuse reduces crime. Budget 2010 delivers a safer community for Territory families, by giving police the tools they need to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour. As your local member, I am pleased to say that there will be $1.57 million for day and night patrols and a public hotline; continued responsible drinking education campaigns and a stronger Alcohol Court to deal with problem drinkers.